

She says our relationship has
progressed beyond the Maynards
of this world.

For Christmas she'll get
sackcloth and ashes.

v.

She wants to stay
in a class motel,
one where the room phones
are color coordinated.

I give in
though my predilection is for
comfortable fleabags with
lots of character.

The color tv blares
the magic fingers vibrate;
she is in her element.

I go into the bathroom
and destroy a box of
sanitized toilet seat covers.

-- Robert Matte

Berkeley CA

HALLOWEEN

The kid went out alone
as Fat Albert,
two pillows stuffed under his
shirt and soot smeared on his
face. He came in early
saying nothing much was
happening. By 9:30
no one had come knocking.
By 11:00 we blew out the
candles in the jack-o-lanterns
and went to bed.

It's a sign of some sort.
All over the city plates of
candy sit untouched.
It makes housewives uneasy.
The candy makers
will have a conference
over this.

What are the children
up to?